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ROTHWELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1955



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Rothwell Urban District Council

Chairman of the Council :

MR. F. T. LEE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

MR. F. J. W. WEST, C.C.

Clerk to the Council :

MR. A. SHARMAN.

Members of the Public Health Committee :

MRS. I. E. ANDREWS, MESSRS. J. T. BUCKBY, R. L. DAINY, T. NICHOLS, A. E. SHARMAN.

THE CHAIRMAN and VICE-CHAIRMAN of the Council are ex-officio Members.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health :

JAMES CARROLL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H., D.Ch.

Also holds the appointments of

Medical Officer of Health, Burton Latimer Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Corby Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Desborough Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Kettering Rural District Council.

School Medical Officer.

Secretary :

MISS M. W. LANGLEY.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

A. SMITH, M.R.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I., CERT.S.I.B.

Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as an Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Public Health Department,
75 London Road,
KETTERING.
June, 1956.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rothwell Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. ANDREWS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my second Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1955.

The Vital Statistics for the year under review were as follows :—
The population (Registrar General's Estimate) was 4,710 showing no increase on last year's figure.

The birth rate 15.29 showed a decrease on the 1954 figure of 17.41. The death rate 10.40 showed a decrease on the 1954 figure of 12.31 but this figure has remained relatively constant for a number of years. The infantile mortality rate of 69.44 as compared to no infantile mortality rate last year is the highest recorded figure for a number of years. It actually means, as will be seen from the text, that out of seventy-two live births there were five deaths under one year of age. In 1954 there were 82 live births resulting in no deaths under one year of age. There were again no deaths under the heading of Maternal Mortality which is very satisfactory.

Section F deals with the prevalence of and control over Infectious Diseases. There was a great increase in the notifications of Measles, 170 cases compared with none last year, the incidence was confined to the 0—10 age group and occurred in the period May to September. Five cases of Scarlet Fever were notified as compared to six cases last year. There was a decrease in the number of cases of Whooping Cough, four being notified compared to 15 last year. One case of Food Poisoning was notified.

Sections C, D and E of the report have been submitted by your Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Section C deals with the Sanitary Circumstances of the area and an account of the Water Supply, Sewerage, and Sewage Disposal is given. Section D deals with the Public Health and Housing Acts. Section E gives an account of the Inspection and Supervision of Food.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help and encouragement and Mr. Smith for information supplied for this report and for his ever ready assistance throughout the year. I should also like to thank Mr. Sharman and staff for assistance on many matters throughout the year. Finally, I appreciate very much the assistance received from Miss Langley in compiling this report.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
JAMES CARROLL,
Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years
1951, 1952, 1953, 1954 and 1955

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Area (acres)	3,638	3,638	3,638	3,638	3,638
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	4,584	4,649	4,692	4,710	4,710
Number of Live Births	67	58	67	82	72
Legitimate	66	57	65	81	70
Illegitimate	1	1	2	1	2
Birth rate per 1,000 population	14.61	12.48	16.41	17.41	15.29
Number of still Births	—	4	1	3	2
Legitimate	—	4	1	3	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	—	64.52	14.71	35.29	27.03
Rate per 1,000 population ...	—	0.86	0.21	0.64	0.42
Number of deaths	76	47	53	58	49
Death rate per 1,000 population	16.58	10.11	11.30	12.31	10.40
Death from Pregnancy, Child- birth and Abortion	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	—	17.24	14.93	—	69.44
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	—	17.24	14.93	—	13.89
*Deaths from all forms of Tuber- culosis	2	1	—	1	—
*Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	1	—	1	—
Deaths from Malignant Neo- plasms	12	10	12	11	10
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—

*Registrar-General's figures.

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	3,638
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population ...	4,710
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to	
Rate Book	1,673
Rateable Value	£23,453
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£89

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows :—Boot and Shoe manufacture, Ironstone Mining and manufacture of Agricultural Implements.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year :

LIVE BIRTHS					<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	70	32	38
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
TOTALS					72	33	39

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	15.29
--	-----	-------

STILL BIRTHS					<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	2	2	—
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTALS					2	2	—

Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still) Births	...	27.03
England and Wales	...	23.1

DEATHS					<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
					49	28	21

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude) ...	10.40
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (corrected) ...	8.84
Death rate from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ...	—
Death rate of infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	69.44
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	71.42
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	—
Death rate from Measles (all ages)	—
Death rate from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Death rate from Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	—
Death rate from Malignant Neoplasms	2.12
Death rate from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	—
Death rate from Diphtheria	—
Death rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis	—
Death rate from Influenza.	0.21
Death rate from Pneumonia	—
Death rate from Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—

The Maternal Mortality Rates for :	<i>Maternal Causes Excluding Abortion</i>	<i>Due to Abortion</i>	<i>Total Maternal Mortality</i>
England and Wales per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	0.54	0.10	0.64
Rothwell Urban District	—	—	—

Deaths.—Comparability factor for 1955 was 0.85. The crude death rate per 1,000 population for 1955 was 10.40 which multiplied by the comparability factor of 0.85, supplied by the Registrar General, gives a corrected death rate of 8.84. This rate of 8.84 is the rate which, it is assumed, would be arrived at if the age and sex distribution of the population of Rothwell Urban District was distributed in the same proportion as that of England and Wales as a whole.

England and Wales	11.7
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Births.—The following table shows the birth rate for 1955 together with the rate for England and Wales.

LIVE BIRTH RATES, 1955

A comparability factor has been issued for 1955 by the Registrar General which allows for the different age and sex distribution of Rothwell and provides a basis for comparison with that of England and Wales as a whole.

Rothwell	15.29
Rothwell corrected by comparability factor 1.14 ...	17.43
England and Wales	15.0

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES, 1955

Infantile mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding and maternity and child welfare.

Rothwell	69.44
England and Wales	24.9

NEONATAL MORTALITY RATES, 1955

Neonatal mortality is the number of deaths in children under four weeks of age per 1,000 live births.

Rothwell	13.89
England and Wales	17.3

The causes of deaths in children under one year of age with age and sex distribution are given in the following table :—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Cause of Death</i>
20 minutes	F	Asphyxia Neonatorium. Sub-dural Haemorrhage.
1 month	M	Broncho Pneumonia. Prematurity.
1 month	M	Death from accidental Asphyxia. P.M.
2 months	F	Meningitis. Infected Meningocele.
9 months	M	Bronchial Pneumonia. Congenital Mental Deficiency.

The Registered Causes of Death were as follows :

						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	28	21	49
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases					—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm stomach	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm breast	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm uterus	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms					3	1	4
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	1	5	6
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	7	—	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	8	2	10
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
25.	Other disease of the respiratory system					—	—	—
26.	Ulcer and stomach duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases					3	1	4
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—	—

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.**—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton and by the Laboratory of the Kettering General Hospital.

The following specimens were examined :—

Faeces 11

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**—The County Council is responsible for Ambulance Services. The St. John Ambulance Brigade carry out the service on behalf of the County Council for non-infectious cases.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—The County Council is responsible for the Home Nursing Service.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Welfare Clinic is held twice monthly. A Medical Officer attends one session each month.

The treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases is carried out by the Regional Hospital Board.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children who were immunised in 1955 is as follows :—

Under 5 years of age ...	...	...	...	2
5 to 14 years of age ...	...	...	...	7
TOTAL ...	...	...	...	9
BOOSTERS ...	...	...	...	26

The number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1955 is as follows :

Age at 31.12.55	Under 1	1	2	3	4
i.e. Born in Year	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
No. Immunised	9	64	50	49	50
Age at 31.12.55	5—9		10—14		Total
i.e. born in Year	1946 - 50		1941 - 45		under 15
No. Immunised	232		279		733

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINATION

	Under 1	1-4	5-14	Total	Booster
Whooping Cough only ...	—	—	—	—	—
Combined Diphtheria/Pertussis	57	15	1	73	31

VACCINATION

The following table gives the number of vaccinations undertaken during the year :—

	Under 1	1-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Primary ...	27	3	—	1	31
Re-vaccination ...	—	—	—	2	2

My thanks are due to the County Medical Officer of Health for the above figures.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.—No formal action was taken during the year.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Report by
A. SMITH

M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I., CERT.S.I.B. CERT. Meat and Foods R.S.I.
SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for year 1955.

Water Supply.—An adequate supply of water has been maintained in the town by the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board, supplementing the local supply with water from Ravensthorpe via the Harrington main, and despite the very dry summer and light rainfall no reports of water shortage were received during the year.

Water Analysis.—Two samples of town's water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination, with the report that both were 'very satisfactory'.

Fifty-one samples of town's water were taken by the Water Board and all were found to be bacteriologically satisfactory.

Rainfall.—The rainfall during 1955 was 19.55 inches, which is the second lowest recorded figure for 12 years.

1955	19.55	1951	29.97	1947	21.21
1954	29.06	1950	25.58	1946	25.94
1953	19.24	1949	23.72	1945	20.83
1952	23.44	1948	28.77	1944	21.94

Water Services.—New services were connected to 26 Council houses, and 4 private houses.

Public Swimming Bath.—A warm dry summer caused much more activity and interest at the open air swimming bath which was well attended from June to September.

Mr. R. Cross again carried out his duties of Bath Attendant with efficiency and enthusiasm, and was assisted by Mr. W. Norman, who attended the bath daily during the school holidays.

Between June and September, the following bathers paid for admission to the bath :—

Boys	1359	Men	248	Spectators	3214
Girls	1074	Women	64		
Total 2745, an increase of 972 bathers compared with 1954.					

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Main Sewer.—The section of main sewer running through Mr. Guilford's field off Kettering Road was cleaned out by dredging. This 18 inch sewer was found to be silted up to half bore in some places and many tons of stones, coal, brickbats, pieces of cutlery and other materials were taken out.

Public Cleansing.—A weekly collection of house and trade refuse has been maintained excepting for holiday periods.

A new engine clutch and gear box were fitted to the Karrier Bantam refuse vehicle, which after eight years continues to give good service.

Controlled Tipping.—All household refuse is deposited in the Controlled Tip at Thorpe Underwood, and facilities are available for tradesmen to deposit their trade waste in the tip at moderate charges.

Salvage Collections.—The total collections of mixed waste paper reached a new high record figure of 72 tons 5 cwts., resulting in an increase of 7 tons over the previous year.

The price of mixed waste paper varied from £7.10.0 per ton for the first three months to £8 per ton for the remaining nine months, so that this record yield of 72 tons 5 cwts. realised £570 against £434 income for last year.

Annual Tonnage of Waste Paper :—

		<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>
1950	...	54	—	1
1951	...	53	18	—
1952	...	48	11	—
1953	...	56	9	—
1954	...	65	16	—
1955	...	72	5	—

Rodent Control.—21 infestations of rats were successfully dealt with by your Rodent Operator during the year, when 65 bodies were recovered, mostly at the refuse disposal tip and sewage works.

The use of the new rodenticide 'Warfarin' has proved most successful and has been the means of completely exterminating whole colonies of rats, followed by long clear periods before reinfestation.

Sewer treatment was carried out by test baiting 12 manholes on different parts of the system, but no evidence of infestations were found.

Factories Act, 1937.—There are 35 factories on the Register—8 inspections were made and 2 defects found, both were remedied.

The number of outworkers in August, 1955 was 31.

SECTION D. Public Health and Housing Acts.

Housing.—24 new houses were completed by the Council during the year, and a start was made on a further 20. 4 Private houses were completed during the year. One house was demolished under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Summary of Sanitary Defects Remedied :—

Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	41
Blocked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	53
Inspection Chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11

Summary of Sanitary Defects Remedied—*Continued*

Inspection Chambers provided	...	...	...	...	6
Soil and ventilation pipes provided	...	...	...	...	3
Tipper Closets converted to pedestal closets	...	...	...	...	3
Water closet compartments repaired	...	...	...	...	15
Wells and pumps repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	39
Rainwater guttering repaired	...	...	...	...	27
Dampness to walls remedied	...	...	...	...	19
Fireplace repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	29
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	12
Sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	2
Handrails to staircases provided	...	...	...	...	3
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	17
Ventilation to larder	...	...	...	...	2
Washing coppers provided	...	...	...	...	47
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	14
Internal water service	...	...	...	...	11
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	134

Sanitary Inspections of the Area :—

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	436
Nuisance inspections	...	...	...	...	111
Housing inspections	...	...	...	...	325
Factory inspections	...	...	...	...	8
Food Shops inspections	...	...	...	...	11
Food Warehouse inspections	...	...	...	...	4
Rat infestations	...	...	...	...	24
Slaughtering and Meat Inspections	...	...	...	...	45
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	115
Housing Defects remedied	...	...	...	...	321

Number of Notices Served :—

Informal : Nuisance	...	...	...	...	10
Housing	...	...	...	...	—
Statutory	...	...	...	...	—

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Meat and Food Inspection.—One slaughterhouse in the district has been licensed, and is in regular use.

All cottagers' pigs slaughtered in the district were found to be free from any disease which would render the meat unfit for human consumption.

The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption, consequently being surrendered and destroyed :

Canned Meat	36 lbs	Preserved Fruit	560 lbs.
Canned Fruit	17 lbs.	Beef	... 149 lbs.
Total weight 762 lbs.			

I should like to thank all Officers and Staff of the Council for their co-operation, and to you Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen for the support you have given to the various schemes which I have laid before you.

SECTION F. Infectious Diseases.

There were 180 cases notified, compared with 22 cases in 1954.

Whooping Cough.—Four notifications were received during the year.

Measles.—There were 170 notifications during the year compared with none in the previous year. The incidence was confined to those in the 0—10 age group and occurred in the period May to September. All the cases were nursed at home and all recovered.

Food Poisoning.—One case was notified.

Scarlet Fever.—There were five cases notified during the year. All were nursed at home and all recovered.

TUBERCULOSIS

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.—These regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during the year.

During the year three cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified, one case was an inward transfer. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis, one case was removed from the register as cured and one case removed to another district.

The number of cases in the register at the end of 1955 was as follows :—

Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			<i>Grand</i>
<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
10	8	18	8	6	14	32

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1955

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough ...	...	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	4
Measles ...	...	—	—	—	1	57	94	14	4	—	—	—	170
Food Poisoning ...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever ...	...	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	5
TOTALS ...	...	—	—	—	1	61	95	16	5	—	1	—	180

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis), 1955

Disease	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65+	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Measles ...	4	11	15	15	23	101	1	—	—	—	—	—	170	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	4	11	16	16	26	103	4	—	—	—	—	—	180	—	—	—

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1955

Age Period	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	1	—	—
25—	1	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	1	—	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1955

Age Period	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	—	—	—

